

Welcome to PCAccent. This newsletter is an adjunct, an "accent" if you will, to the PCA's Web site and the PENnant. The Board of Directors will use PCAccent to keep you informed about PCA news and happenings.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER! For comments or questions, send email to PCA President Rick Propas. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please send email to Membership Coordinator Kim Sosin. Email addresses for Rick and Kim can be found on the PCA's Web site:

<http://www.pencollectors.com/>

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\*\*\* Presidential Points, by Rick Propas \*\*\*  
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Welcome to the third issue of PCAccent, an occasional (mostly monthly) publication of the Pen Collectors of America. In PCAccent, we try to keep you, our valued members, up to date with what the organization is doing, the strides we are taking to improve services, and the new initiatives to make the organization better support our shared hobby.

If there are any brief features that you would like to see, please get in touch with me or any of the board members and, even better, if you have a brief contribution you would like to share, let us know that, too.

Thanks for your support, and enjoy.

Rick Propas, President

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\*\*\* Your new PCA Web site, by Linda Bauer \*\*\*  
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In the last PCAccent, we invited feedback from members for a proposal for a new website design for [www.pencollectors.com](http://www.pencollectors.com), the official PCA website.

The board has discussed a number of ways the website could be of more service to members, such as having a downloadable electronic Library, more up-to-date news and events, and possibly even our own forum.

We've heard from a handful of members so far, and it's clear that a downloadable pen library would be your first priority.

Other suggestions were for pen reviews, buy and sell and repair information and general pen and ink discussion.

Another user asked for a page of extensive links to web sites that are good resources for pen information.

We also had a suggestion for a more dynamic home page. That's already been implemented -- we now have news highlights on our home page that will be updated regularly, with a link to the News page.

We're still looking for suggestions for new website content.

Send your comments and ideas to Linda Bauer ([lbauer@prairienet.org](mailto:lbauer@prairienet.org)), and we will take them into consideration as we plan the new site.

Linda Bauer, Web Site Coordinator

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\*\*\* Financial Notes, by Deb Kinney \*\*\*  
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The transition from our old treasurer to our new treasurer, Russ Ewert, is now mostly complete and we are finally getting membership checks cashed in a timely manner. The PCA board would like to thank all of the members for their patience during our transition.

The finance committee has been hard at work making needed changes to our accounting practices. As we work on our budget, we are changing the way we think about our finances. The new budget will be more meaningful creating responsibility and accountability at the committee level. Russ has spent a great deal of time gathering financial statements and

setting up "best practices" that will make future PCA finances much more transparent.

Deb Kinney, Finance Chair

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\*\*\* Membership Update: PCA at Pen Shows, by Kim Sosin \*\*\*

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Pen collectors and dealers at the Los Angeles Pen Show had to notice the new PCA pen show booth! Kim Svabik, the "PCA Face" at pen shows, was working at our colorful new booth all three days, renewing former members and taking in new members. She was quite busy! Over the weekend, PCA picked up three renewals, 24 one-year new members, one three-year new member, and one associate member! We also have a limited supply of The Pennant to sell at pen shows. The booth will be set up at the larger pen shows all year, so look for the gold, red, and blue of the PCA table and stop by to say hello!

You might have noticed that the renewal postcards you were asked to fill in for a mail-in membership were not fountain pen friendly. We're sorry about that, but the mailing service we used had only one type of paper stock premier slick paper! The postcards looked great, but were made for ballpoint pens only. We are looking into other services that work with the post office online to see if we can get postcards you can write on with your fountain pens. In the meantime, we hope you have a ballpoint pen in the house! If you haven't send these in yet, please do so, or use PayPal from the PCA website, as soon as possible so that you don't miss the first 2008 issue of The Pennant.

Both mail-in and PayPal memberships for 2008 have been rolling in and we thank you all. Our long run goal is to have 2000 members, which we hope will happen within 5 years. We know that this will require regular publication of high quality information in The Pennant, a strong presence in the pen community and outstanding membership services.

Kim Sosin, Membership Chair

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\*\*\* Elections \*\*\*

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The Board of Directors has created a new Elections Committee, with PCA Immediate Past President Dan Reppert and Board Member Joel Hamilton as co-chairs. In addition to seeking candidates to place in nomination for this year's election to positions that are open, the committee will analyze the election processes for areas of improvement. We will be looking at how best to get the voting accomplished and ensure that all members have access to the process as well as providing early information about the candidates. If you are interested in serving on the committee, or if you're interested in running for a board position, please get in touch with Dan or Joel.

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\*\*\* Board Planning Retreat \*\*\*

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Your Board of Directors will once again conduct an annual planning retreat. The actions resulting from last year's retreat are evident in the development of our Mission Statement, increased activity of the board, redesign of the web site and improvement of the PFK program. We will use the upcoming one day retreat to identify strengths and weaknesses of our current short and long term goals. Sonya Mawhorter will again lead us in our efforts to use our current platform to move into the future. As many of the members had conflicts with conducting the retreat in conjunction with a show, this will be a stand-alone activity with minimal distractions and is being conducted near the geographical center of the country, Kansas City, a week before the Chicago Pen Show.